

careful attention to the supposed flocks of Goldfinches will settle this point.

Mr. Wayne also reports a nest with two eggs very much addled, of the Bald Eagle, February 3, 1897.

LYNDS JONES, *Oberlin, Ohio.*

Mr. James Newton Baskett sends the following interesting letter :

You ask for a note, or so. I can only say that I am much surprised that the fly-catching habit of the Red-headed Woodpecker should be noted as anything new, as stated in BULLETIN 7, page 5, since it has been familiar to me all my life. I am sure there must be some mistake about Dr. Merriam being the first to observe this or even note it, since I am impressed with having seen it of record somewhere, before we had an Agricultural Department. In the South the boys have a trick of hurling a small stone almost vertically upward past the woodpecker's perch (when they note him at the aerial flycatching) and he will sometimes fly at the stone in its descent and be so stunned by it as to fall.

So, likewise, the foster brother act, noted by Mr. W. L. Dawson, BULLETIN 10, page 4, is not so rare as thought. I have seen Redbirds and others assisting other species of birds in feeding their young. In a cage in my own family, a Redbird (Cardinal) of the year took charge at once of an orphan canary placed with him, and fed it all its food. He was in every respect quite motherly, and the canary, besides its own song, learned that of its foster brother. See similar instance of wren in *Osprey*, January, 1897.

JAMES NEWTON BASKETT, *Mexico, Missouri.*

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## THE SWALLOW REPORT.

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It is a pleasure to me to extend my sincere thanks to the many persons, members and others (and why not members?), who have so kindly aided me in my work with notes and suggestions. My correspondence has been so great and my time so limited that I have failed to answer many of the letters. In addition to those answered I have received valuable notes from Joseph Grinnell, Horace A. Gaylord, C. D. McLouth, George D. Peck, J. Eugene Law and N. Hollister, who would have received prompt thanks but for the rush of business. I need notes particularly from the Middle and Gulf states and Canada. Please send in what notes you now have on hand and gain as many more as possible this season.

Don't wait until next fall before writing, as this report will be ready for publication in December, and what notes I have now I can work up at my leisure. I would ask all to *observe* rather than *collect*. A live bird possesses hundreds of possibilities for the student that a dead one does not. If you chance to live near a colony of Barn or Cliff Swallows you will find the egg shells which the parent birds throw out; preserve these, they are nearly as valuable for study as the finest prepared specimens.

In conclusion I would say, don't take too much pains in arranging your notes, or in the choice of paper. (Still I appreciate a finely arranged report.) One acquaintance used brown paper and lead pencil, but his notes were of almost priceless worth in the preparation of the report.

STEPHEN J. ADAMS, Cornish, Me., *Chairman.*

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## REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON MIGRATION.

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There have not been as many notes sent in on the migrations of 1896 as were expected, though many are much fuller than usual. There is a disposition among observers to refrain from sending in notes because they may not be complete. This is a mistake, as such a note as this, which was received last year, "Yellow Warbler, May 4," may be of much value. We have a number of reports from observers who are not members and are very thankful for them. The Michigan Ornithological Club, through its secretary, Mr. Mulliken, has promised its aid, and we request all Chapter members to render the Club such assistance as they are able. With such outside assistance and active work on the part of our members, we hope for much in the future.

J. E. DICKINSON, *Chairman.*

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## ELECTION OF NEW MEMBERS.

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The following are proposed for membership in the Chapter. For Active membership :

Frank M. Woodruff, Assistant Curator Chicago Academy Sciences.

Henry K. Coales, 136 Washington street, Chicago, Ill.

W. S. Colvin, Osawatomie, Kansas.

For Honorary Membership : Otto Widmann, Old Orchard, Missouri.

Adverse votes should be sent to the Secretary.